

Application No. 09/867,227

Reply to Office Action of December 5, 2003 and Further to the Notice of Appeal received at the USPTO on June 24, 2004

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-14, 20, and 25-33 are canceled. Claim 35 is new. Claims 15-19, 21-24, and 34-35 are pending. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the remarks below.

At the outset, Applicants thank Examiner Dicus for her helpful explanations of the rejection and suggestions to overcome the same.

It should be noted that Applicants have amended Claims 15 and 34. Support for the amendments is found in the claims as originally filed and throughout the specification as originally filed. Claim 35 is new. Support for the new claims is found in the originally filed claims and throughout the specification. Support for the specific amounts of colloidal particles and polymeric binder is specifically found at page 12, lines 5-16, of the originally filed specification. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

The rejections of Claims 1, 15 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, is believed to be obviated by the amendment above. While not commenting on the merits of the negative limitation and/or exclusionary proviso and reserving the right to later address this issue if required during the prosecution of this application and/or subsequent related application claiming priority to the present application, Applicants have simply cancelled this negative limitation and/or exclusionary proviso at this time. Accordingly, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

The rejections of Claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and/or 103(a) over any of USPN 5,707,722 (US'722) and USPN 5,605,750 (US'750) alone or in any combination is

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believed to be obviated by the cancellation of Claims 1-6. Accordingly, withdrawal of these grounds of rejection is respectfully requested.

The rejections of Claims 15-24 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over any of USPN 5,605,750 (US'750), USPN 6,132,849 (US'849), and/or USPN 6,379,780 (US'780) alone or in any combination is believed to be obviated by the amendment above combined with the remarks below.

The present invention relates, in part, to a microporous coating having a cross-linking agent, at most 90 parts of colloidal inorganic particles; and at least 10 parts of a polymeric binder, where the weight percentage of colloidal inorganic particles is greater than the weight percent of polymeric binder (see Claim 35 above). The present invention also relates, in part, to a composition and an ink receiving medium containing the microporous coating (see Claims 15 and 34 above).

At best, US'750, discloses a media having a coating on one side of a film. US'750 fails altogether to disclose that the coating contains a cross-linking agent, at most 90 parts of colloidal inorganic particles; and at least 10 parts of a polymeric binder. Accordingly, US'750 fails to disclose and/or suggest the claimed invention.

At best, US'849, discloses an ink-receptive media. However, US'849 fails altogether to disclose a coating contains a cross-linking agent, at most 90 parts of colloidal inorganic particles; and at least 10 parts of a polymeric binder. Accordingly, US'849 fails to disclose and/or suggest the claimed invention.

At best, US'780, discloses an imaging support having a polyester bottom layer and a permeable upper layer. However, US'780 fails altogether to disclose a coating contains a cross-linking agent, at most 90 parts of colloidal inorganic particles; and at least 10 parts of a

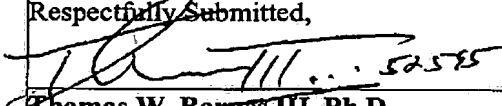
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polymeric binder. Accordingly, US'780 fails to disclose and/or suggest the claimed invention.

Accordingly, none of the references relied upon by the Office discloses the claimed invention. Even if the Office finds that such references possess motivation therein to combine, no combination would specifically appreciate the superior results of a coating that contains a cross-linking agent, at most 90 parts of colloidal inorganic particles; and at least 10 parts of a polymeric binder. Accordingly, no combination of USPN 5,605,750 (US'750), USPN 6,132,849 (US'849), and/or USPN 6,379,780 (US'780) disclose and/or suggest the claimed invention and withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested. Should anything further be required to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact below-signed by telephone.

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